DECLASSIFIED
RELEASED BY NLS DATE 12/28/12
RDS☐ or XDE☐ EXT DATE
TS AUTH REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

±±±R792

R I1845)1ZSBIYCBYL

±+AM-Coup-Lead-Urgent''''''''±

EDITORS: THE FOLLOWING SERIES REPLACES OUR AM-COUP (R-760).

(CHANGING DATELINE)

PARIS, SEPT 20, REUTER - A PARIS-BASED NEWS AGENCY (ED: CORRECT) SAID TONIGHT THAT EMPEROR BOKASSA OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE HAD BEEN OVERTHROWN, BUT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORT.

THE REPORT CAME FROM THE AGENCE TRANSCONTINENTALE DE PRESSE (ATP), A FRENCH AGENCY WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.±

MORE 2004

±±±R79?

I1855)2ZSBIYCZ/R

±+AM-Coup-Lead 2 Paris±

TWO HOURS AFTER THE AGENCY DISPATCH WAS ISSUED, THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID IT WAS UNAWARE OF ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENING IN BANGUI, CAPITAL OF THE FORMER FRENCH COLONY.

MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THE FRENCH CONSULATE IN BANGUI, CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE, REPORTED ALL WAS CALM IN THE CITY.

ACCORDING TO ATP, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED EMPEROR'S OVERTHROW WAS ANNOUNCED ON BANGUI RADIO BY HIS NEPHEW, FORMER HEAD OF STATE DAVID DACKO.

''THE DETESTED REGIME WHICH HAS EXPLOITED OUR COUNTRY FOR SO MANY YEARS HAS DECOMPOSED,'' MR DACKO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, ADDING THAT HE HAD TAKEN OVER POWER.±

MORE 2005

±±±R794

R I1865)LZSBIYCUIV

±+AM-Coup-Lead 3 Paris±